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LYNCHINGS DURING 1913

"Make provision for the ex-convict.

"Such means will afford sufficient protection for the individual, his family and society under a system of absolutely indeterminate sentence—at least, in the present economic condition of society."

J. L.

Prison Baseball at the Massachusetts Reformatory.—Prison baseball has been in vogue in Massachusetts prisons for more than a generation. It is encouraging to see those upon whom the law has placed its seal of degradation enjoy themselves in the pursuit of our national pastime. Here we have no umpire baiting. We have an ideal baseball game without any unnecessary kicking and fighting. The umpire is a prisoner, and so are the scorers and all the players. And playing is really first class, when we consider the lack of practice due to confinement. The base running is somewhat below the average of a good team in the outside world. The battery work I consider good; the out-fielding is all that can be desired and the only radical defect in the playing is a little weak infield playing. The scoring of the games would do credit to Foster, O. P. Gaylor and other great baseball scribes to whom our national game is a scientific study. The applause is hearty from the prison audience. Credit for good playing is freely given along with criticism for "bonehead" plays. The players enter heartily into the spirit of the game and in this manner the game is a great help to enforce prison discipline. The ball playing is better in reformatories than in state penitentiaries, because in the reformatories youthful offenders are confined. The inmates there average in age from 15 to 35 years, whereas in the state prisons the inmates are of more mature years, and consequently much slower in an athletic way, and the ball played by old offenders is neither as fast nor as good as that delivered by the youthful inmate.

JOSEPH MATTHEW SULLIVAN, Boston, Mass.

STATISTICS.

Lynchings During 1913.—"In the year that has just passed fifty-one persons, all colored save one, were put to death by mobs. The number of persons lynched in 1913 was thirteen less than the number, sixty-four, for the year 1912. In fact, this is the smallest number of lynchings for any one year since a record of lynchings has been kept. This is gratifying and indicates the possibility of a time when, throughout the length and breadth of this land of ours, no individual will be put to death without due process of law. If all the people, white and black, will work together in a courageous manner I feel quite sure that this time can soon be brought to pass.

"In spite of the small number of lynchings for the year I feel that in several instances innocent persons were put to death. At Greenville, Ga., a black man was lynched for murder. A few days later another person confessed to the crime. Two apparently innocent colored persons were put to death at Germantown, Ky. The *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, in commenting on this lynching, said: "These negroes had furnished no possible motive for the deed."

"At Houston, Miss., a colored man accused of murder was lynched. It was later discovered that the wrong man had been put to death. At Spartanburg, S. C., through the bravery of the sheriff, a mob was prevented from lynching a